(a) the total number of airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) how many airports, out of these, are proposed to be upgraded upto International standard and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to start flights to South India from Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are eight (8) airports in Madhya Pradesh, which belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(b) Presently, AAI is upgrading three (3) airports namely Indore, Bhopal and Khajuraho airports to meet the international standards. Various upgradation works like extension of runway, construction of new expandable modular integrated terminal building and construction of new apron at these airports have been taken up by AAI.

(c) Domestic Airlines Operators are free to operate anywhere in India including airports in Madhya Pradesh depending upon commercial viability, traffic potential and available infrastructure at such airports.

Upgradation of safety regulations

1812. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety regulations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) do not conform to international standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what measures Government has taken or proposes to take to upgrade the safety regulations upto international standard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Safety regulations in India are primarily based on Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) issued by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and are regularly amended by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) whenever new SARPs are introduced. In addition, DGCA from time to time reviews and amends its regulations as per international standards and aviation requirements of the country.

Protocol arrangements at airports

1813. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of protocol arrangements at various airports by private airlines and Airports Authority of India (AAI) is creating a lot of confusion and problem to passengers, particularly VIPs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in AAI to ensure that protocol is strictly followed by private airlines, particularly with regard to VIPs; and

(d) if so, the details of protocol arrangements made for VIPs in various airports by private airlines and AAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides stipulated facilities to the VIPs and the concerned airlines are accordingly advised regarding the VIP movement.

(d) The various facilities offered at Airports are:

1. Reserved Lounge facilities, Provision of tea, coffee, water free of cost.
2. Free access in the Terminal Building and Visitors Gallery on the basis of Hon'ble Member of Parliament's (MP) Identity Card.
3. Free parking of vehicles in the VIP Car Parking Area on the basis of pass issued to MP for Parliament House Car Park.
4. Additional Airport Entry Pass for one personal staff of MP, if requested.
5. Airlines have been advised to ensure proper facilitation of VIPs upon timely intimation of their movement.

Wasteful expenditure in Air India

1814. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Air India has paid to its employees wages to which they were never entitled;

(b) if so, whether productivity-linked incentives scheme of Air India has not been approved by its Board or by Government;

(c) if so, whether Government's directions to stop these payments were ignored by the airline; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check wasteful expenditure in Air India and to fix responsibility on those who have not followed the directives of Government?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The Public Sector Enterprises of the Government of India